

Lincoln, NE – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has introduced legislation (H.R. 3774) to promote sustainable sources of non-nuclear energy in developing nations and stem the spread of nuclear technology's military potential.

"The spread of nuclear weapons poses a grave and serious threat to global security," Fortenberry said. "In a far-sighted yet long-overlooked provision, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 called for America to help develop sustainable sources of non-nuclear energy in volatile parts of the world, mitigating the risks of nuclear technology spreading to those who would do us harm. We are now in both an international and technological position to advance this important goal. It is time to move forward."

Title V of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 required the United States to work with developing countries in assessing and finding ways to meet their energy needs through sustainable alternatives to nuclear energy that are consistent with economic factors, material resources, and environmental protection. Efforts to implement these goals, however, never materialized.

By encouraging the United States to implement Title V, the Fortenberry legislation would act on a key recent recommendation of the bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. The Commission noted Title V's value in potentially lowering the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Fortenberry is co-founder of the House Nuclear Security Caucus and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Democracy Partnership.

###